NC 205(j) Grant

Regional Water Resources Planning

Case Study: Piedmont Climate Resiliency

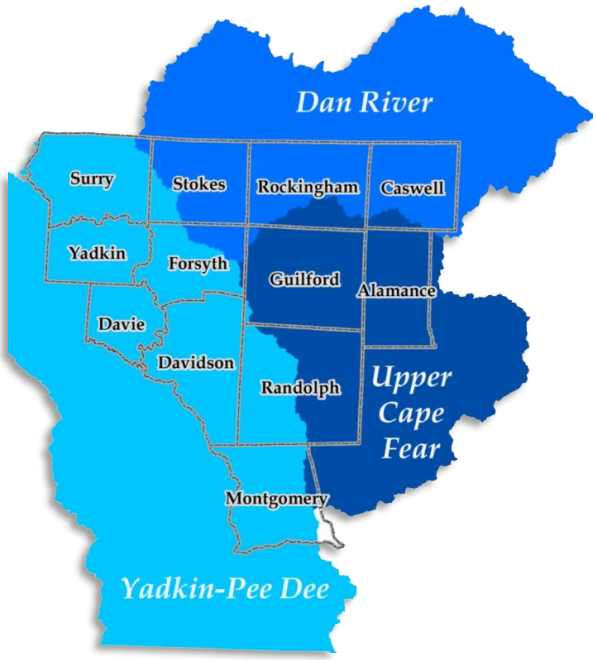
Regional Water Resources Planning

Regional Water Resources Planning helps identify and implement water management solutions that achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives and reduce regional conflict. This approach delivers high value for investment by working across jurisdictional boundaries to broaden stakeholder input and utilize all available resources. The region may be defined by a number of factors, including watershed boundaries, climate, land use, or socioeconomic conditions, depending on the water resources concern at hand. In North Carolina, regional initiatives to address water quality concerns have included (1) an integrated water resources plan to address nutrient pollution in the Jordan Lake watershed (2) a community education initiative about water quality issues in the Roanoke River watershed and (3) a GIS-based watershed assessment for the Upper Cape Fear River Basin to reduce water pollution.

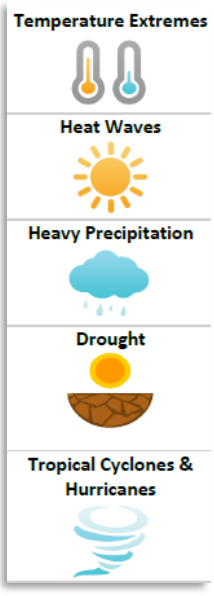
River Basins: Roanoke, Cape Fear, Yadkin-Pee Dee

205(j) Funding: $20,000

Total Project Cost: $30,864



Climate Resiliency Tool Kit Overview



In 2016, the **Piedmont Triad Regional Council** (PTRC) received an EPA Clean Water Act Section 205(j) Grant to develop the *Piedmont Triad Climate Resiliency Tool Kit*. Building off of the 2014 *Piedmont Together Climate Adaptability Report,* PTRC worked to engage stakeholders in long-term water resource management planning to address the impacts of climate change in the region. The 100-page report summarizes existing climate data, discusses the likely local and regional impacts, and provides resources and recommendations to assist local communities in addressing these challenges. The tool kit specifically addresses climate change impacts on agriculture, stormwater, water supply, flooding, and drought in member governments' jurisdictions. It further recommends strategies that communities can employ to better navigate these changes, highlighting collaboration opportunities among stakeholder groups.

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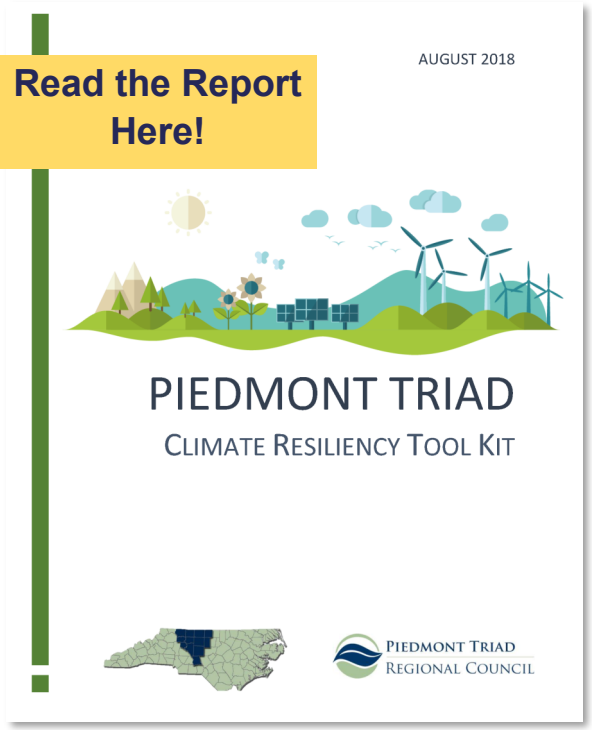
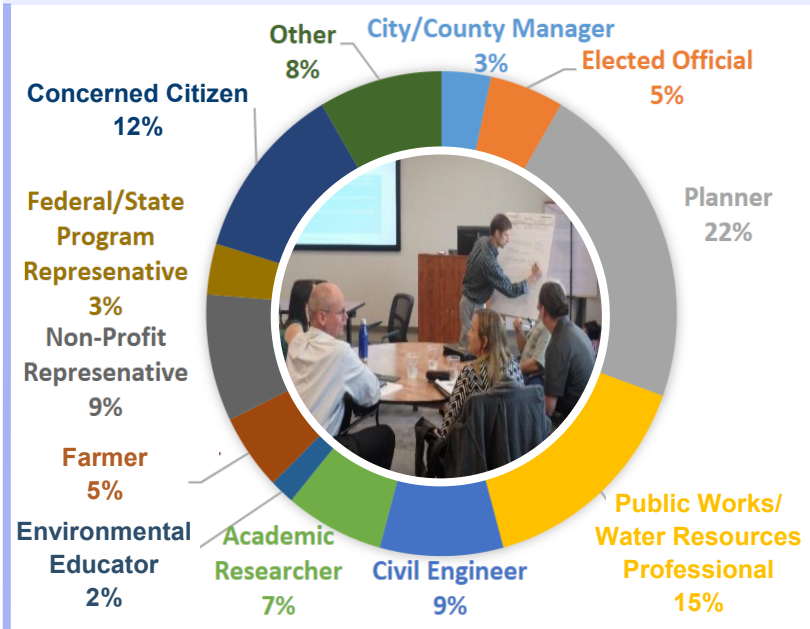
Diversifying Stakeholder Input

To gain diverse stakeholder perspective, the PTRC conducted a survey and held a Climate Summit. The Regional Climate Resiliency survey polled 59 people representing 12 different stakeholder perspectives to evaluate how prepared the Triad is to handle climate change (*see chart*). The two-day Piedmont Triad Climate Summit in May, 2018 provided an interactive workshop for diverse stakeholders to discuss the region's preparedness for climate change. Topics included agriculture and natural resources, stormwater and flooding, water supply, wastewater, and drought.

The SOAR planning tool was used to identify Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results within the topics discussed. With both the summit and survey, the PRTC was able to produce an in-depth Climate Resiliency Tool Kit supported by the various voices of the Piedmont Triad.





A diverse group of stakeholders participated in the Regional Climate Resiliency survey. Image from the Climate Summit.

Similar Regional Planning Projects:

- Jordan Lake One Water Planning (2019)
  205(j) funds: $65,300 | Total cost: $68,700
- Roanoke River Mid & Lower Basin-wide Watershed Initiative: "Partnership & Knowledge into Action" (2015)
  205(j) funds: $8,490 | Total cost: $11,890
- Upper Cape Fear River Basin Restoration and Conservation Analysis and Strategy to Improve Water Quality (2011)
  205(j) funds: $40,316 | Total cost: $54,906

General 205(j) Grant Requirements:

- Water quality management planning projects
- Council of Government sponsor/partner
- No more than 18 months
- No match requirement

Learn more about the 205(j) grant on the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality website.

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